

**[ABSTRACT]**

PAGE COMPOSITION IN AN IMAGE REPRODUCTION SYSTEM USING SEGMENTED PAGE ELEMENTS.

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The invention relates to a method and apparatus for merging page elements according to a layout signal into one page for reproduction on a reproduction device. The page elements are segmented into smaller segments before storage into memory. Due to the particular format of the page elements, data required for the merging of page elements can be retrieved, decompressed and processed quickly so merging can be done in real time during printing. The format used for the segments enables easy and fast execution of various image operations such as mirroring, clipping, rotation, etc...

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